SUMMARY

MADRID - THE CHOSEN CITY

A HISTORIC REFORM

118 YEARS OF LEGACY

JOINING EFFORTS

FAQ

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Madrid has been selected by the Davis Cup Steering Committee to host the first two editions of the newly revamped Davis Cup by BNP Paribas finals in 2019 and 2020. The announcement was made through a press release issued by Kosmos Tennis and the International Tennis Federation (ITF) on October 27. The finals will have the support of Madrid’s City Hall and the Madrid’s Community. The Davis Cup Steering Committee is composed of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) president David Haggerty, the Kosmos founder and president Gerard Piqué, the former professional tennis player Galo Blanco and the ITF vice-president René Stammbach.

The event in 2019 will take place at La Caja Mágica, which is located in Madrid’s Parque Lineal de Manzanares. This venue will stage the week-long final event, a 118-year-old tournament in a renewed format that will bring together 18 national teams with the world’s best players vying for the prestigious trophy. Both La Caja Mágica and WiZink Center will be regarded as possible options for the 2020 edition.
The ITF president David Haggerty said: “We are delighted to be bringing the 2019 Davis Cup by BNP Paribas finals to Madrid. The city is a fitting location to stage the highest quality tennis and great entertainment for thousands of fans from all over the world. We look forward to working with the city to realize our ambitions of elevating the Davis Cup to a new level. On behalf of the Steering Committee we thank the Ayuntamiento de Madrid (Madrid’s City Hall) and the Comunidad de Madrid (the regional governing body) for their excellent proposals and professionalism during the selection process”.

Before the 2019 Davis Cup by BNP Paribas finals Qualifier Draw which took place on September 26, the Steering Committee announced that Argentina and Great Britain would be given a wild card to join the four 2018 semifinalists (Croatia, France, Spain and USA) and the 12 winners of the 2019 Qualifiers that will be held in February in a home and away format, completing the list of the 18 nations that will meet in Madrid.

La Caja Mágica has earned the highest world’s recognition as a tennis tournaments venue. It comprises several indoor and outdoor courts in addition to 3 main show courts. The WiZink Center also has a lot of experience staging sporting and entertainment events.

It will be a week-long event with a group stage in which the participants will be divided into six 3-nation groups and that will take place from Monday through Thursday. Each qualifying
The Davis Cup by BNP Paribas finals that will be held in Madrid in 2019 will feature 18 national teams. The four 2018 semifinalists (France, Croatia, USA and Spain) and 2 more nations that were given a wild card (Argentina and Great Britain) will join the 12 winners of the qualifiers ties that will be held on February 1st and 2nd under home and away format. The result of the draw is the following:

**THE 18 FINALISTS IN 2019**

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Brazil (c) vs. Belgium (s)
Uzbekistan (c) vs. Serbia (s)
Australia (s)(c)(*) vs. Bosnia/Hersegovina
India (c) vs. Italy (s)
Germany (s)(c) vs. Hungary
Switzerland (s)(c) vs. Russia
Kazakhstan (s) vs. Europe/Africa nation TBC (to be confirmed)
Czech Republic (s)(c) vs. Netherlands
Colombia (c)(*) vs. Sweden (s)
Austria (s)(c) vs. Chile
Canada (s) vs. Europe/Africa nation TBC (to be confirmed)
China, P.R.(c) vs. Japan (s)

The two nations from Europe/Africa still to be defined will be confirmed after the 2018 Europe/Africa relegation play-offs by the end of October and based on the Davis Cup’s Nations Ranking on Monday October 29th. These nations will participate in the Qualifier Draw once the 2018 competition ends.
On August 16th the ITF's Annual General Meeting that took place in Orlando (USA) with representatives of 140 national associations from all over the world voted in favor of the ITF's and Kosmos Tennis' reforms to implement a new format that secures the long-term status of the competition.

From 2019, the tournament will bring together 18 nations and the world's best players to compete in a week-long final event to crown the Davis Cup's champions. Following the voting, the ITF's president David Haggerty said: “I am delighted that the nations have today voted to secure the long-term status of the Davis Cup. By voting in favour of these reforms, we will be able to work with Kosmos to realize the huge potential of the Davis Cup and elevate it to new standards. This new event will create a true festival of tennis and entertainment which will be more attractive to players, to fans, to sponsors and to broadcasters”.

Then he went on to say: “In addition, the new revenues for nations that the event will generate will have a transformative effect on the development of tennis in all nations. Our mission is to ensure that this historic decision will benefit the next generation of players for decades to come. I would like to thank the nations for making this historic decision and the ITF Board of Directors for their commitment and support and I would also like to thank Kosmos for their passion and partnership. I have no doubt that by working together we will ensure a brighter future for tennis all around the world”.

Gerard Piqué, President and Founder of Kosmos said: “Today is a historic day and we...
The Davis Cup finals will be held in a group stage format from Monday to Thursday, with the countries divided into six groups and each qualifying round will consist of three matches – two singles and one doubles – of best-of-three sets. The winners of each group and the two best runners-up will participate in the quarterfinals on Friday. The semifinals and final will be held on Saturday and Sunday. The two worst qualified teams will be relegated to the Zone Groups for the following year and the remaining nations that did not qualify for the semifinals will have to participate in February’s qualifying round the following season.

WHAT THE WEEK OF COMPETITION WILL BE LIKE

The new competition’s format was approved by the ITF Annual General Meeting that took place in Orlando on August 16.

The 25-year agreement represents a substantial and historic levels of investment into the global development of tennis through the ITF and its 210-member National Associations. There will be a significant increase in the nation’s income from the competition and a new player prize fund of $20 million introduced, taking Davis Cup to Grand Slam’s prize money levels.

are convinced that the agreement ratified by the nations certainly guarantees the future of the Davis Cup and the development of tennis at all levels. I would like to thank ITF President Dave Haggerty, the ITF Board of Directors and the entire team of ITF professionals for their work with Kosmos over the past few months and welcome a new stage in which we will continue to evolve together. I would also like to congratulate all those who, with their votes, have embraced this change and have seen the momentous decision that was in their hands. This is the beginning of a new stage that guarantees the pre-eminent and legitimate place that the Davis Cup should have as a competition for national teams while adapting to the demands of this professional sport at the highest level. It is a great honour for me to be part of this historic process of a sport that I am passionate about and, without a doubt, in both personal and professional terms this is one of the happiest days of my life.”

The tournament will have a new two-week format: a Qualifying round in February and the Davis Cup Final by BNP Paribas in November.
The first Davis Cup took place in 1900 when the United States challenged Great Britain, which back in the day would compete under the name of the British Isles. The tournament was held at the Longwood Cricket Club in Boston and the Americans surprised their rivals with an overwhelming advantage of 3–0. The idea of the Davis Cup had been conceived one year earlier by four members of the Harvard University tennis team who wished to set up a match between USA and Great Britain. Once the two respective national associations reached an agreement, one of the four players, Dwight Davis, designed a tournament’s format and ordered a trophy that bought with his own money.

The tournament was originally named “The International Lawn Tennis Challenge” but soon became known as Davis Cup.

In 1905 the Davis Cup expanded itself to include France, Austria, Belgium and Australasia, a team that combined players from Australia and New Zealand. In the 1920s there were over 20 nations regularly playing in the competition.

The first years were dominated by USA, Great Britain and Australasia but France put an end to that period in 1927. Led by the famous Four Musketeers – Jean Borotra, Jacques Brugnon, Henri Cochet and Rene Lacoste – France started a glorious winning streak that lasted six years.

The United States, Great Britain and Australasia took over again in the 1930s and it was not until the 1970s that a different nation took the trophy home. During this time, several Australian tennis players earned a place in the Davis Cup’s history books for winning a great deal of titles.

Over its 118 years of history, the Davis Cup has undergone different changes in format. The first was in 1972 while in 1981 the World Group was created.
In 1969, a year after the start of the Open Era in tennis, 50 nations competed in Davis Cup for the first time.

In 1972, the competition underwent a remarkable change in format as each year’s champion could not have a direct access to the following year’s final any longer.

In 1974 South Africa became the fifth nation to raise the trophy and was quickly followed by Sweden, Italy and Czechoslovakia as the Davis Cup grew in popularity around the world.

In 1981 a new format was implemented which lasted until 2018. A 16-nation World Group was created to compete in quarterfinals and knockout phases under home and away format which would be held from February to November. The remaining nations were split into regional Zone Groups with promotion and relegation at stake.

Spain started the decade in 2000 winning its first Davis Cup title followed by three more victories to establish itself as the most dominant nation in the competition in recent times. Russia and Croatia also won titles within that decade and more recently Serbia, Switzerland, Great Britain and Argentina.

The ITF’s Annual General Meeting voted in favor of the reform proposed by the ITF itself and Kosmos Tennis in order to secure the long-term status of the tournament.

The Davis Cup is one of the tournaments with a lasting sporting legacy at an international level.
From 18th to 24th November 2019, Madrid will host a unique tennis event, unprecedented in the history of this sport, which will raise the level of competition while providing a great legacy to Madrid and tennis fans. This will be made possible thanks to the sum of efforts by several bodies that will collaborate in implementing what, from next year, will be one of the annual landmark events for sports and entertainment fans worldwide.

Kosmos Tennis is a subsidiary of Kosmos focused on the development and management of global tennis events. Kosmos Tennis has reached a historic agreement with the International Tennis Federation for the development and implementation of a new Davis Cup format in the World Group, as well as the organization of new innovative competitions over the course of the 25 year agreement. Kosmos is a Barcelona based holding company founded and chaired by professional football player Gerard Piqué, and backed by Hiroshi Mikitani, the Chairman and CEO of Rakuten (TYO: 4755). Kosmos is currently building a global portfolio of sports, media, and entertainment ventures, leveraging strategic synergies across forms of content, platforms, technologies and geographies.

About ITF
The International Tennis Federation (ITF) is the world governing body of tennis. Founded in 1913, its purpose is to ensure the long term growth and sustainability of the sport, delivering tennis for future generations in association with its 210 Member Nations. The ITF oversees the rules and regulations that govern international and national competition. The ITF is responsible for the development of tennis worldwide through its highly-regarded Development Programme, its Science and Technical Department which monitors equipment and technology, and the Officiating Department which oversees the education and advancement of officials worldwide. The ITF organises over 1,000 weeks of men’s and women’s professional tournaments on the ITF Pro Circuit and manages the ITF Junior Circuit and team competitions, the ITF Beach Tennis Tour, the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour and the ITF Seniors Circuit. The ITF is the owner and rightsholder
of the two largest annual international team competitions in tennis, Davis Cup by BNP Paribas and Fed Cup by BNP Paribas, and manages the Olympic Tennis Event on behalf of the IOC. The ITF is responsible for maintaining the integrity of tennis and manages the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme on behalf of the sport and is a partner in the Tennis Integrity Unit.

**DAVIS CUP**

Davis Cup by BNP Paribas is the World Cup of Tennis. It is the largest annual international team competition in sport, with 133 teams entered in 2018. The competition is 118 years old, having been founded in 1900. The title sponsor is BNP Paribas (Official Bank of Davis Cup). International sponsors are Rolex (Official Timekeeper) and Adecco (Official HR Sponsor), while Head (Official Ball) is an international partner. beIN SPORTS is the Official Global Media Rights Partner. In 2019, the all-new Davis Cup by BNP Paribas finals will be hosted at the iconic La Caja Magica in Madrid, Spain. Twenty-four nations will contest the Qualifiers on 1-2 February, competing in twelve locations around the world on a home-and-away basis. The twelve winning teams will join the 2018 semi-finalists plus two wild card teams in an 18-nation Davis Cup season finale.

**COMUNIDAD DE MADRID**

The Comunidad de Madrid is proud to stage the first two editions of the competition, as it has also done previously with other major sports events. The skills of the Comunidad and its infrastructures will thus play an important role in hosting the whole scale and scope of this event.

One of the multiple actions carried out by the Comunidad de Madrid is contributing towards ensuring sport and its values are part of the daily lives of its citizens. At the same time, events like this renewed Davis Cup will contribute to consolidate Madrid as a destination at all levels, strengthening the region’s image worldwide.

**AYUNTAMIENTO DE MADRID**

The Ayuntamiento de Madrid is extremely pleased and happy that the Davis Cup Steering Committee decided that Madrid would stage the first two editions of this centennial event’s renewed format, in which the best tennis nations in the world will compete.

Madrid’s support for this event shows the city council’s commitment to sports and tennis in particular, underpinned by an iconic arena as La Caja Mágica and a firm determination to make this city an essential figure of the world tennis calendar. The various events staged over the years have consolidated and positioned the venue designed by Dominique Perreault, on the banks of the river Manzanares, as one of the best of its kind worldwide.
How will the new tournament work?
The new event that will close the season will be held on the week of November 18 - 24. This new format of finals will feature 18 national teams - 12 qualifiers, four semifinalists from the previous year and two wild cards (nations invited).

The 18 teams will compete in a group stage divided into six groups of three teams each. The six winners of the groups and the two best runners-up based on sets and games won will qualify for the quarterfinals. The Davis Cup champions will be crowned after completing the knockout phase. The two teams with the worst record in the group stage will be relegated to their Zone Group the following year. The 12 teams that finish from 5th to 16th position will compete in the qualifiers in February the following year.

How do nations qualify for the finals?
There will be a twenty-four-nation phase, the Qualifiers, with a total of 12 ties that will be played under the home and away format. The 12 winning nations will qualify for the finals and join the four semifinalist nations from the previous year and the two wild cards. The 12 defeated nations will compete in the Zone Groups.

How will wild card nations be chosen every year?
Every year two nations will be selected by the Steering Committee in the course of the week of the finals. The Steering Committee will be composed of two representatives of the ITF, one representative of the organization and one former professional player. The nation that is granted a wild card must be placed within the 50 best ranked in the Davis Cup Nations Ranking or have one or more tennis players in the Top 10 ATP World Rankings. In 2019, the wild cards were decided before the Finals Qualifier Draw.

When were the wild card nations announced?
On September 26 Argentina and Great Britain were announced as the nations that will be given wild cards for the 2019 finals.

Will matches continue to be best-of-five rubbers?
Singles matches at all levels of the tournament will be best of three tie-break sets. Doubles matches will be best of three tie-break sets maintaining the usual scoring system.

What will happen to the other weeks during which the Davis Cup used to be held?
The Qualifiers for the finals will take place in February with 12 ties in home and away format as it has been to this day. They will determine which nations will qualify for the finals. The weeks in April and September will see the Davis Cup take place in Groups I, II, III and IV.

Will there be home and away matches?
Yes. The 24-nation Qualifiers that will take place in February will be played in home and away format as well as Zone Groups I and II where the format will remain unchanged. Groups III and IV will not be changed either, continuing with round-robin format.

What kind of courts will matches be played on the finals?
In both 2019 and 2020 Davis Cup editions the matches will be played on hard court.

When will the finals draw take place?
The finals draw will take place at least five months in advance. This draw will determine how the six groups will be composed as well as the progression of the qualified teams towards the knockout stages.

Will there be seeded teams?
In the finals, six nations will be seeded. Seeds 1 and 2 will be the finalist nations from the previous year and seeds 3 to 6 will be nominated based on the Davis Cup Ranking at the time of the draw. The remaining nations will be ranked from 7 to 18 according to the Davis Cup Ranking so the ones that rank 7 to 12 will be distributed in the groups A to F and those ranked 13 to 18 will be distributed in groups A to F.

When must players be confirmed?
Teams will have to confirm their players 10 days before the beginning of the event. Nations will be allowed to nominate up to five tennis players.

When will tickets go on sale?
Information on ticket sales, prices and the date they will be available will be announced at www.kosmostennis.com as well as on other official channels.

How many courts will the final event be played on?
Three show courts will be used.

Will Davis Cup continue to be an annual event?
Yes.

What will the prize money be?
A $20M prize fund will go directly to players competing in the World Group via their respective federations.